



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

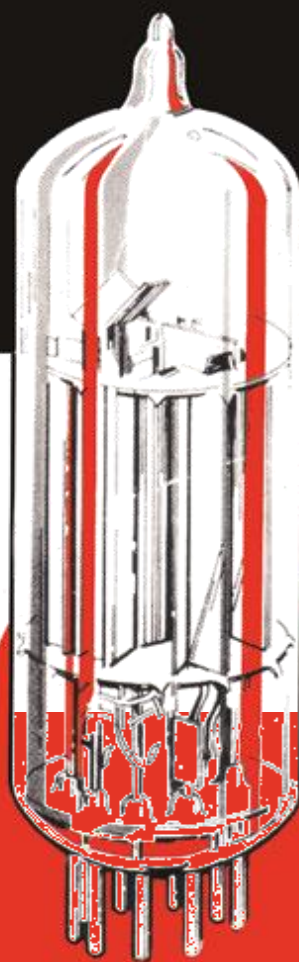
Communicator

March 2015

The RCA Receiving Tube Manual

Including Picture
Tubes and Industrial
Receiving Tubes

RC-30



March 2015



At The Last Meeting...

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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At The February General Meeting...

Introductions & Announcements

President John VA7XB opened the meeting at 1900 hr and welcomed recently-licensed guest Darren Cooper VE7KNF. The agenda was approved. John then reported that we may lose the No. 11 Firehall site where SARC's tower/trailers are stored, as the Deputy Fire Chief has warned that the shelter may be required for other purposes. John went on to outline a competition for the best Field Day battery monitor construction project, as described in the Feb Communicator. On a related subject, members were also reminded that they may be eligible for a \$50 rebate if they construct a radio-related kit and give a short talk about it at a future meeting. The March 11h meeting will feature Steve Wright VE7CT who will give a presentation on the Malpelo Island DXpedition. In April, Rob VE7CZV and Garvin VA7YEE will tell the group "How to Get the Most out of VHF/UHF".

Committee Reports

Financial

With Scott VE7HA away, there was no financial report. Sleeve badges are still available at \$4 each or \$10 for 3.

Membership

With John VE7TI away, no report was available. The current membership stands at just over 70 as late renewals gradually come in.

Communicator

John VA7XB appealed to members to submit articles or other items of interest to John VE7TI for inclusion in the Communicator.

Website

In absence of Webmaster, Howard VA7HTZ, Hiu VE7YXG reported that the website appears to be up to date.

Net/Repeater

Net Manager, Rob VE7CZV, reported no problems with the repeater or net control but reminded everyone that he is always looking for new net control operators.

CW Group

Garvin VA7YEE, who is organizing the CW group reported that a few individuals have signed on to learn CW and he will be getting something underway in March.

Satellite Group

John VA7XB indicated the Satellite group got off to a good start at the first meeting, with objectives defined. The equipment needed or already available for Field Day has also been identified. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for March 1st.

Contest Group

Brett VE7GM noted the success of the BC QSO Party last weekend and the participation of the VE7SAR team. Contests coming up this month are:

CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY - Feb. 13/15 (Jim VE7FO to host)

ARRL International DX Contest, CW - Feb. 20/22 (VE7FO to host)

North American QSO Party, RTTY - Feb. 28 (VA7XB to host)

Members of the contest group were encouraged to take advantage of the expert mentoring available from Jim VE7FO at his station equipped with Elecraft K3 radios and high performance antennas.

Field Day

Stan VA7NF reported that the first planning meeting will be scheduled for late February or early March. Three strategic decisions have to be made at an early date:

1. whether or not to operate QRP class (max 5 watts) and gain the 5:2 points advantage over low/portable power class (max 150 watts); it was noted by Brett VE7GM that QRP class requires use of alternative power for all radios (HF, VHF, satellite, GOTA) with generators used only for lighting and other non-radio purposes.
2. where to set up in consideration of optimal propagation vs the opportunity for best public exposure.
3. whether or not to attempt 2 HF radios operating on a single band (potential mutual interference issues).

Much discussion followed, with Brett VE7GM observing that a high proportion of the top 10 scorers in the US operate QRP.

New Business

There being no new business, the meeting broke for coffee then reassembled to hear the featured presentation.

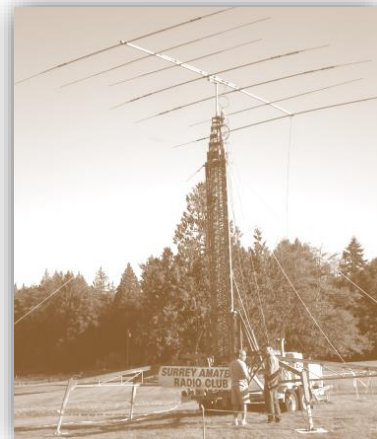
Guest Speaker



James Longley VE7J MS was introduced as the familiar face we see around the building on our meeting nights. A ham since 1996, James was Emergency Radio

Coordinator for Surrey B.C from 1998 to 2003, EMBC Station Manager for more than 10 years, a volunteer firefighter with the City of Surrey for over 30 years and Search and Rescue Search Manager for 10 years. James described how Emergency Management BC fits into the federal, provincial and municipal emergency communications organizations (PERC, ARES, PEP etc.) and answered many questions about the functioning of these agencies. The importance of having a PEP task number for exercises and other volunteer events was emphasized, as it provides participants with WorkSafe BC coverage and liability insurance and also covers some expenses. The presentation concluded with a tour of the radio room. James was thanked for an excellent presentation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2100 hr.



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To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

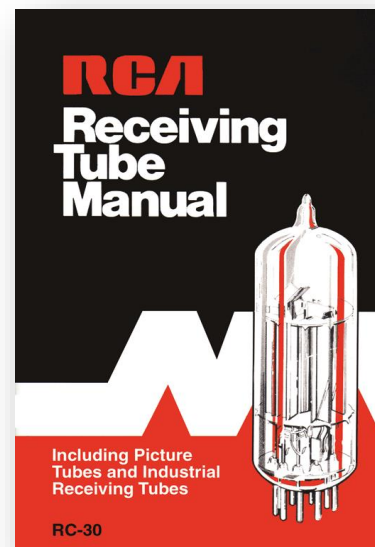
On The Cover...

In electronics, vacuum tube, electron tube (in North America), tube, or valve (in British English) is a device that controls electric current through a vacuum in a sealed container.

Invented in about 1910, vacuum tubes were a basic component for electronics throughout the first half of the twentieth century, which saw the diffusion of radio, television, radar, sound reinforcement, sound recording and reproduction, large telephone networks, analog and digital computers, and industrial process control.

The RCA Receiving Tube Manual was the 'bible', first published in 1932 it was the go-to reference for technicians and engineers alike when designing a piece of equipment or looking for a tube substitute. RCA and General Electric were the major US manufacturers of the devices. RCA published the last version in 1975.

For a fascinating read about the history and function of vacuum tubes, go to URL: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vacuum_tube to view the manual, click the image at right.



March 2015



Learning To Send CW

Brett Garrett VE7GM

"This article will not prepare you to participate in CW traffic nets. Nor will it prepare you to work CW contests without using a computer or CW memory keyer to do the sending. But these are things you can grow into, if you choose, after developing the basic sending skills that are addressed in this article."

Part 2

Last month we had the first of two parts of an article on Learning to Send CW. This month we conclude the series.

Improving Your Fist

Once you have done enough practice with your paddles to be able to be comfortable with them, you will want to set the keyer speed to 15 wpm (if it isn't there already). The faster rate of characters will force you to recognize characters at the 15 wpm rate. This is the first step to getting your code sending speed up.

Certainly at the 15 wpm rate you are likely to make many more errors than you have been used to. Don't slip back, however: continue sending each character at 15 wpm, but allow more time between characters so you are able to focus on making correct single characters only.

As you continue over future sessions you should find that you are able to allow somewhat less space between characters. Continue, for now, allowing extended space between words.

Gradually, you will find that certain character strings (e.g. "ing", "the", etc.) occur repeatedly, and you are able to send the sequence almost as if it were a single unit. This is the time to become concerned about inter-character spacing.

I find fldigi to be a very useful tool for decoding CW, and like to use it to help develop correct inter-character spacing. (<http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html>) The program is free and has versions available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

After installing the program, connect an inexpensive microphone to the microphone port on your computer. If your computer doesn't have a microphone port, but does have a built-in microphone (common with modern laptops)

you will have to try to put the speaker from your code practice oscillator near the built-in microphone.

Configure fldigi to take its input from your computer microphone port. Set fldigi in CW mode (under Op Mode on the tool bar) and start sending CW for about 10 seconds. Now look on the waterfall display (bottom of window) and position the marker with the red lines so it spans the line running down the display, which will be at the frequency of your code practice oscillator. Now send some more code and you should start to see some characters in the upper yellow display (the receive window). If any of this is unclear, refer to the program documentation.

If you have things set up correctly, the characters in the yellow display should bear some resemblance to what you intended to send. If in doubt, try sending a series of "V"s with extended spacing. You should see a series of "V"s on the screen. If you have additional noise (garbage characters) showing up, refer to the program documentation to turn on and set a squelch level that permits decoding of only your sending (not background noise).

When you are convinced this is working correctly, start sending from your reference (book, newspaper, etc.). Send with extra inter-character spacing in the beginning. If you are forming your characters correctly, the correct character sequence will appear on the fldigi display. Once you have this working, now move to your usual sending rate but with extra spacing between the words.

Examine the characters showing up on the screen to see if they still match what you intended to send. Likely you will have some which will be incorrect, not because you sent the wrong character, but because you ran two or more characters together. You can experiment with this by sending the word "the" with accentuated inter-character spacing, and then reducing the inter-character spacing. When the spacing is



'Dual' Paddles

adequate (or too much), there should be a clear “t” “h” and “e”. If the spacing between the “t” and “h”, for example, becomes too small, fldigi will interpret the two as one character and display a “6”. When this occurs you can see your inter-character spacing is inadequate and work on improving it to the point where the “t” and “h” are immediately adjacent, with no intervening spaces, but not run together as a “6”.

Continue, in this way, working on inter-character spacing for each successive word. You want each word to appear as a word with no extra internal spacing, and do not want any two characters to run together.

Once you have your inter-character spacing reliably correct, you can begin to reduce the inter-word spacing, as much as you are comfortable. If you find your words are running together, as shown by fldigi’s display, concentrate on adding just enough additional inter-word spacing until the words reliably appear as separate words on fldigi’s display.

You are now well on your way to developing a clean, understandable fist.

On-Air CW QSOs

When you are able to send code at an average rate of 10 wpm, you are ready for your first on-air CW QSO. This will be much harder than sending from a book, however, which is why you want to reach 10 wpm from a book before starting on-air.

As mentioned earlier, there are four steps in sending CW, and the techniques given to this point address only the last step. It is now time to address the first three steps: 1) What to say (the idea to be conveyed); 2) How to say it (the choice of words and syntax); and 3) How to spell the words. The pressure of a live QSO will make all four steps harder, but in particular, the pressure on you to address the first three steps in “real time” will force you to improve your CW skills the most.

When you begin to practice CW on the air, enlist friends who are at your level, or somewhat beyond, to join you for regular on-air rag-chews. There is no substitute for working together with at least one other person. Ideally, that person will be a non-critical partner who is developing their skills just as you are developing your skills. (Hence the desire of the SARC executive to have an active CW Interest Group.)

As you listen to the CW bands, you will often hear casual “HI, HOW COPY?” type short contacts, which follow a scripted series of exchanges: call signs, signal reports (RST), operator names, QTHs, and transceiver and antennas used at both ends. Then come the local weather reports if both parties wish to continue. After that it’s some variant of “TNX FER FB QSO ES 73” (CW-speak for “thanks for the contact, best wishes”).

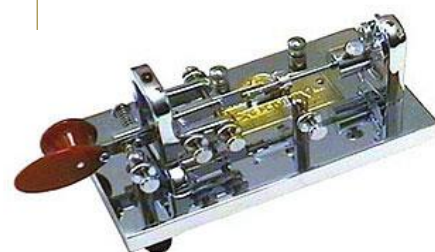
In this kind of contact you can write down the appropriate responses on a cue card and work your way down the list, much like sending from a book. To a large extent, you can even pre-program the responses in a memory keyer (as is commonly done for PSK31 contacts). But not with a rag-chew.

Just as is the case when in casual conversation, in a rag-chew your brain is forced to work on each of the four steps simultaneously. Just as chatting with someone you’ve just met at a party is a test of your conversational skills, rag-chewing is a real test of your CW skills. You are forced to think on the fly, in real time, and hope to avoid sounding like a total fool. This is a critical step in the process of developing your CW skills.

It doesn’t matter for our purposes whether or not you are a natural rag-chewer. I, for example, would never engage in a rag-chew on SSB, but on CW I’m looking for the practice in the four steps of sending, and particularly the first three. When you are able to rag-chew in CW, freely sending whatever comes in to your head (with, we hope, some judgment applied), and have it come out in crystal clear, perfectly timed CW, you have arrived! (In case you are wondering, I’m no-where near that point yet, but I greatly admire those I hear doing just that a few kHz down the band.)

In your rag-chews, don’t worry if you think you don’t have anything to say. To simplify Step 1, I started by jotting down some notes before the scheduled QSO on the topics I would discuss. If necessary, describe the weather in some detail (but in your own words), or describe what you did since getting up in the morning. Describe the room you are sending from. Describe the clothes you are wearing. Detail what you had for your last meal, and why you chose that. It really doesn’t matter what you send, since you are practising sending, and your partner (one at a time for now; working several in the same QSO is harder and should be left for later) is practising receiving. Don’t send for longer than 60

Showing characters between angle brackets, as in <BT>, is a method commonly used to indicate the characters are run together. So, for example, <BT> is “dah-di-di-di-dah”, which is a running together of “B” and “T”. Another common typographical convention used for the same thing is to put a bar over the top of the two characters.



A “bug”

March 2015

Tip:

Don't try to push your sending speed up past the point where you are able to send distinct characters and words, as shown on fldigi's display. Your speed will naturally improve as you gain experience. Keep testing yourself, however, in case you are developing sloppy inter-character or inter-word spacing habits.

seconds at a time before you go over to your partner to take a turn.

Here are some tips for your on-air CW practice:

1. Learn the basic structure, abbreviations, and pro-signs of standard CW QSOs. One basic reference is naqcc.info/cw_qsos.html.
2. As with any on-air activity, before starting make sure the frequency isn't already in use, first by listening, and then by calling "QRL?". Wait, still listening, and then about five seconds later (when anyone on frequency has had a chance to respond) again send "QRL? DE Your Call". If there is still no answer, the frequency is yours.
3. Try to keep your individual transmissions short so you can develop a conversational style between you and your partner. Ideally you'll get to the point where one of you will be able to ask the other a question and get a quick-turnaround answer, just as you would on a telephone.
4. At this stage of your skill development, send "KN" rather than "K" after each transmission, which indicates to other CW ops who might be listening that you don't want other participants. (This won't guarantee you don't get other people calling you, but it will help. And be sure you understand this rule yourself so you don't butt in uninvited on someone else's QSO.)
5. The regulations in Canada require you to send your call sign at the start and end of a QSO, and every half-hour in between. So for short fast interchanges you can use "<BK>", without signing, to invite your QSO partner to come back, and your partner can do the same with you. Just remember that, if you go beyond 30 minutes, you'll each need to sign with your call, followed by "KN". And don't forget to sign again at the end of the QSO.
6. Unfortunately, my fingers sometimes keep sending when my brain gets busy trying to think of what to say next (Step 1), and so has stopped feeding them correctly spelled words (Steps 2 & 3). This is about as useful as the random characters that show up on your RTTY receive screen when listening between transmissions, and it can be very confusing to the other party in the QSO. Instead, train your fingers to send "<BT>" (the pro-sign for "ummmm") when your brain is overloaded.
7. Sometimes you want your QSO partner to stand by for a short period of time while you "get your act together". When this happens, send "<AS>", the pro-sign for "hang tough buddy". (Just don't get so wrapped up in something else that you forget to go back to them.)
8. Sometimes my brain is so busy trying to select words and syntax for the part of the thought I haven't started sending yet (Steps 2 & 3) that I leave out a few key words (or characters in words) in the part I'm sending. That can be embarrassing if the missing words or characters result in my message conveying a meaning quite different from my intention. Just as, when copying CW, you "copy behind", when sending you "send behind". We talk that way also, but after years of practice they seem to happen simultaneously and effortlessly. This is still difficult for me when sending CW, but I believe the solution is to relax and slow down, sending what I have already formulated and then sending a few "<BT>"s until I know what I want to say next.
9. Sometimes I forget how to spell words longer than five characters (Step 3) because my brain is juggling Steps 1 & 2. Like many of us, I spell by putting a word on paper and then fixing it when I recognize it doesn't "look right". Unfortunately, that doesn't work with CW (although the CW text display on my Elecraft radios helps me see what I've just sent, which isn't always what I planned). One way to address this is to learn the standard CW abbreviations for longer words (like "tomorrow"). This also speeds up the flow of conversation. For example, by the time a QSO-partner has sent "tomo" I can fill in the rest without listening, unless they are about to use the one other word my dictionary shows that starts with those characters, "tomography", a word which doesn't turn up often in my QSOs. Better to send just the CW abbreviation "TMW". Abbreviations are good, if used properly.

10. In my experience, and that of a friend who is at about the same level of experience as I am, a form of Farnsworth keying, where the characters and words are sent at a higher rate and longer spacing is used between words, is easier to copy for developing CW ops. This is particularly true when you reach the level where you are copying the received code in your head, without pencil and paper.

Becoming Comfortable

With practice and familiarity, you will gradually gain comfort with CW rag-chews, and that will greatly improve your CW sending skills. Originally I would only work people I know. Then I found myself getting calls from people I'd never heard of but who wanted to work me (for whatever reason) while I was trying to contact my first regular on-air partner, Jay VE7KC, for our scheduled daily QSO.

Initially I felt uncomfortable using CW with someone I didn't know, so I would try to politely explain I'm trying to make a sked with a friend, so couldn't

chat with them at that time. I'd give them a quick signal report and perhaps name exchange, say 73, and go back to calling Jay.

As time went on, occasionally strangers would break into our conversations (despite our use of KN). Often I'd let Jay, or later Deme VE7CRT and Jay, carry on the conversation with the stranger. I'd just sit and listen. But as my comfort with on-air CW has improved, I'm now finding that I am as likely as any of us to reply to the ham trying to break in, and do the initial RST, QTH, name exchange.

As mentioned earlier, there is no substitute for working with a friend when you begin. I started this way with Jay, VE7KC. Looking back in my (paper) log, I find that my first attempted QSO with Jay (when he was VE7OFH) was 6 May 2013. Initially we had a lot of trouble trying to work NVIS between our two physically close locations. My log shows those (initially, many futile) attempts until we learned the tricks of reliable NVIS. I strongly recommend keeping a paper log of your first CW QSOs as a record you can easily browse later.

My log also shows that on 10 January 2014 we added another friend (Deme, VE7CRT) to our regular QSOs. Lately we've added another 'semi-regular', Walt, VE7BGJ, who is often heard checking into our weekly SARC 2 m net. And on occasion, hams we don't know but who hear the QSO and just want to stop in and say "hi" join us for a visit. It has become fairly common, now, to have a four-way QSO going.

And as this has developed, the continuing experience has helped both Jay VE7KC and I become much more comfortable letting the words and ideas flow freely from our "fists". For my part, I no longer have to make notes to get through Step 1. Mostly I can manage Step 2 in real time. And I'm working on Step 3, with the help of strategic abbreviations (and occasional rewordings!).

Good luck in your journey toward comfortable CW QSOs.

~ Brett VE7GM



A "Straight" Key

Slow-speed CW Contest Opportunity

I've been looking for slow-speed CW contests for those (including myself) who want more CW contesting practice without the pressure of big-gun stations working at 35-40 wpm.

I've found something that some of you may be interested in. The FISTS CW CLUB has, for 2015, introduced quarterly slow speed CW contests. Details are here at URL: fistsna.org/operating.html

An extract follows:

NEW ACTIVITY for 2015 - SLOW SPEED SPRINTS !

Did you ever want to participate in the Quarterly FISTS Sprints but felt like the speed was just too fast?

Starting in 2015 the FISTS CW Club N.A. is adding four new Slow Speed Sprints to the Sprint Program lineup. Sprints will be held on the first and second Saturdays. The first Saturday will be the Slow Speed

Sprint and the second Saturday will be the usual Sprint with no speed limit.

The Slow Speed Sprint is a great opportunity to introduce our newer members to the fun of operating FISTS Sprints and for our old hands maybe to brush off those straight keys, cooties, side swipers, bugs, etc. and also join in the fun!

In the Slow Speed Sprint, all operators should send no faster than 13 WPM and if someone is calling you or CQing at a slower speed, you should QRS to match their speed. That is the only change; all other rules, scoring, etc. will remain as for the usual Sprint!"

So if you are interested in trying a CW contest, but intimidated by some of the speeds, now you have an opportunity!

~ Brett VE7GM

March 2015

Last Month...



At the February general meeting, James Longley VE7JMS, the station manager for the Southwest Regional PREOC, provided a station tour and demonstration of the station's capabilities. The station handles not only Amateur Radio traffic but is also tied into a network of other communications services.



Radio Hams Stepped In When 911 System Failed

If you need help, you call 911. When these 911 operators needed help, they called on members of a local amateur radio group

If you need help, you call 911. When the 911 operators need help, they call on members of a local amateur radio group - the Medina Emergency Communications Amateur Radio Service

The *Medina Gazette* newspaper reports:

"When all else fails, we can always get through," said Medina resident Doug McClure KD8SST, a member of the group who came to the aid of county officials Jan. 13 when 911 services went down countywide.

McClure got his amateur radio license about three years ago and he is a member of the Medina 2 Meter Amateur Radio group. Many members of the group participate on the county's emergency communications team.

On Jan. 13, the county's 911 services went down, along with landline phones. Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark and Summit counties also experienced outages related to a burst steam pipe at an AT&T switching office.

The Medina County Emergency Management Agency called in its amateur radio experts to get in touch with other counties and relay information to dispatchers from area hospitals.

Read the full story at

<http://medinagazette.northcoastnow.com/2015/02/04/ham-operators-stepped-failure-countys-911-phone-system/>





A Look From The Blind Side

Garvin Yee

Hello, my name is Garvin Yee. I was born in the last century. I have my amateur radio operator's license, VA7YEE. If you have seen me, I am of Chinese descent, but Canadian through and through. So what else do you know about me? Nothing else I'll assume.

There's a lot to say, but I'll start with Q&A. That is, you sighted people asking us visually impaired people.

How much can you see? Fair question, for there are varying degrees of impairment. I am 99.9% blind. I can see light being turned on/off if I am alerted, otherwise I wouldn't know or notice the difference. Even though I am physically blind, I do see/visualize in my mind objects etc. Think of an apple right now. You visualize it in your mind, just as I would.

Have my other senses sharpened? In a 500 word essay, no. They remain the same, no increase of sensitivity. What I do though, is concentrate on my other senses more, to make up/compensate for my vision loss. For example, you see a glass being tipped over, spilling liquid everywhere. I hear, not including the curses, the glass (not plastic) falling/dropped. If the liquid is running off the table/counter onto the floor, splatter splatter... I can hear that too. So combining all the sounds, I can guess that a glass of something had been spilled.

Yes, I am blind, but no one ever asks me; am I human? That is, I am a living, breathing human being. I speak English. I laugh at jokes and even occasionally tell one or two. What I'm trying to say is, other

than being blind, I am a normal person. It's okay to approach me and start talking. I may be blind, but I can still wash my face and hands, brush my teeth, put my pants on (one leg at a time). I can drive, watch TV and toss a cat. Where, what and how far is another matter. LOL. See, I have a sense of humor.

Can I operate a radio? Yes, in a limited way. Because of my disability, I do things differently and slowly. Everyone has their own style of doing things. For operating radio, I would write down the exact instructions on how to. With those instructions, using my own style, I could change frequency and most other related functions. It would help if the radio/machine could talk to me, otherwise I'll have to rely on my printed instructions and beeps from the radio/machine. The only thing I cannot do, is verify the correct settings. The only way to test it, is to transmit and see if anyone can hear me. If yes, then I was successful. If no, then I have to try again. Thanks for the instructions while with SEPAR and Brett VE7GM at the fire hall, I can set/close up the Go Kits. No antenna work yet, but that's on my list of things to do.

I apologize for not recognizing your name/callsign. Even if you were to wear your nametag, I need to hear your voice for some time, before my little mind registers your name/voice.

Budda Boom. Budda Bing.

~ Garvin VA7YEE

Garvin gives an insight into his impairment and its effect on his ability to practice our hobby.



Announcing The 34th Annual Mike and Key ARC Electronics Show & Flea Market

March 7, 2015 @ 9AM Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Washington State Fairgrounds, 110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA

Admission: \$8 (Under 16, Free with adult) Two floors with 44,000 sq feet of exhibition area (>300 tables)

Talk-In 146.82/22 (PL 103.5) - Radio Gear - Computers - Club & Info Tables - Parts - License Exams - Snack Bar
Free Parking - Consignment Area - Overnight Self-contained RV Camping Available

March 2015

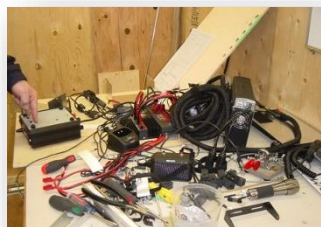


History of SEPAR

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



In the first meeting with Dan Barnscher, the Emergency Planner, and Len Garis, the Fire Chief I quickly discovered that the new direction for amateur radio emergency communications would require radio portability for reception centers.



Part 3

2007 and SEPAR is about to take a new direction, we had a new Emergency Planner and the requirements of the City Of Surrey changed. In this installment we will look at the new direction for emergency communications and the changes needed for SEPAR to meet these new requirements. We had a lot of work to do.

Having just been appointed to the position of SEPAR Coordinator I needed to find out what the city expected of our amateur radio volunteers and how we would meet their needs.

To begin with, I reviewed that past organizational structure, looked at what we had in place with regards to radios and how many volunteers we had to work with. Understanding these assets would allow me to meet with the new planner and Fire Chief and be able to work towards the City's emergency communications needs.

The organizational structure, as outlined in previous articles, consisted of single VHF radios and antennas installed in schools, which were designated as reception centers. These were fixed installations and some were in need of repair, mostly antenna work. There was a radio room at fire hall number one, the Surrey EOC. The radio room was mainly for storage of portable gear, however, there were antennas on the roof which I thought could be used, this was incorrect. The question, should we rebuild the schools sites, upgrade the radio room or start new, what did the City need?

In the first meeting with Dan Barnscher, the Emergency Planner, and Len Garis, the Fire Chief I quickly discovered that the new direction for amateur radio emergency communications would require radio portability for reception centers. In order to meet these needs the fixed school installations needed to be decommissioned

and new portable kits had to be put together in order to meet the City's plan to use recreation centers as reception centers. Len Garis wanted flexibility, in setting up reception centers and on site communications. There would be more changes to SEPAR but in the spring of 2007 we needed to get to work on portable communications kits.

In order to get the ball rolling we needed a plan and financing, both being rather tall orders considering we had exactly zero in both categories. How much would we need, who would lead the design and development of the portable kits, how much radio capacity should the kits have, all these were immediate questions.

Well, without financing we could not move forward so I approached Surrey Fire and the City for funding. How much would we need? I will get into the numbers later in this article but for now I will just say that both Surrey Fire and the City gave us the green light to go ahead with the design and construction of three grab and go kits.

OK, we had the money, now we needed a kit design. The Coquitlam amateur radio emergency group had built several portable kits so I arranged for Ian Procyk to come to a meeting with Dan Barnscher and the SEPAR volunteers to demonstrate the Coquitlam kits. It was a big success with the City immediately wanting the same communications ability. We had the money, now we had a basic design goal, now we needed the human resources to get started.

The time frame was around January 2007 and we needed a team leader to lead the due diligence on developing the communications kit. Bill Gipps, VE7XS, stepped up and he called meetings of the SEPAR volunteers through, February and March to tap into the experience of our radio amateurs.

The first steps were to build a consensus of what the objectives would be. A subgroup was formed with some of the

volunteers and many emails back and forth kept everyone on the same page. In addition to the emails coffee meetings were held at MacDonald's and at John Brodie's on Sunday mornings, all this before kit construction began. There were literally dozens of meetings focused on building a consensus of what we were trying to achieve.

There were presentations made at the SEPAR general meetings and to the Surrey Fire management. Ideas were put forth, discussed and explored. Surrey Fire had a keen interest in the development of the grab and go kits as they were expensive and had to meet their requirements. We worked mostly with subgroups, vetting designs to come up with design considerations. Some of the considerations were, how many hours of run time, protection of radios that were not connected to an antenna and how could we separate the workstations for practical operation. Many hours went into these discussions with white boards being used to compile the information. At round table meetings we discussed options, solutions to problems others had experienced and at the end of the design process we were very happy with the outcome and ultimately the kits themselves.

In the next article we will get into the actual construction and commissioning of the three portable kits. We will look at the response from other emergency groups, PEP, ARRL and RAC to the design and operation of the SEPAR communications kits.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separ.net



Total Price – Quoted & Averaged

Total Price - Quoted & Averaged	Comm West	Burnaby Radio	Radio World
	\$21,479	\$21,137	\$21,612
Delta from lowest Total Price	\$342		\$475

- Conclusion:
- Very aggressive quotes by all three vendors (reflects changing value of Canadian dollar versus US Dollar)
- Two local – one Ontario
- Recommend lowest cost Vendor – Burnaby Radio
 - Don't 'cherry pick' from all three vendors
 - Award bulk of the business to one vendor
 - If they didn't quote on an item, give them an opportunity to supply it at the lowest price quoted – if they can't, buy it from the lowest bidder
- Thank all three vendors for taking the time & energy to respond

After costing out the construction of one kit we determined that funding for a total of three grab and go kits was feasible.

ARRL International DX Contest—SSB Edition

This is the chance you've been waiting for to see how many foreign accents (except the US... they'll have to wait until another contest) you can collect in a 48 hour period.

The contest starts on Friday 6 March at 16:00 PST and ends 48 hours later (after missing an hour, local time, due to the switch to DST) on Sunday 8 March at 17:00 hours. (I think I have that conversion right...)

Rules are at URL: arrl.org/arrl-dx

I have to find out if we have host for this one. In the meantime, possible slots are:

- 16:00-20:00 PST Friday 6 March
- 08:00-12:00 PST Saturday 7 March
- 12:00-16:00 PST Saturday 7 March
- 16:00-20:00 PST Saturday 7 March
- 09:00-13:00 PDT Sunday 8 March
- 13:00-17:00 PDT Sunday 8 March

March 2015



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*



Please note the photos of a paddle keyer constructed by Elmar Leilop, VE7IST. Elmar is a silent key having passed away approximately 10-15 years ago. After his passing I assisted his wife and son in the selling of his radio equipment, some of which I purchased myself including the mentioned paddle keyer.

Elmar was a very constructive man, and as far I know, he constructed this keyer himself, from his own materials and effort. I have not used this keyer myself, but I have no reason to believe it would not work. There should be no problem having it dance around the desk during use as it weighs 3-pounds!

Good work Elmar.

Bob Buckland, VE7FWZ



Sea-Pac

If you've never been to Sea-Pac, one of the largest Ham-Fests on the west coast, you might have a look at their program on pages 22 and 23. This year they have once again prepared an excellent selection of events that should satisfy the beginner and experience ham alike. The swap meet is one of the largest I have attended with many factory reps and vendors on site, and it doesn't hurt quite as much buying knowing that Oregon has no sales tax.

The venue is a top tourist attraction with many shops and eateries and, of course, the Pacific Ocean beach at your doorstep. If you do consider attending book quick because the more affordable lodgings fill up quickly. Visit URL: seasideor.com for more information on the locale.

Now if we could only do something about that Canadian dollar...

For Sale

Yaesu FT840 transceiver for sale almost new condition, great starter radio for the new ham on HF. Simple controls to get on the air and be heard. AM filter installed for HF
AM Price \$450.00
Contact Joe VA7JK at miketangoecho@gmail.com



Wanted

The recently-created SARC Satellite Group is looking for a 2m circular-polarization cross yagi antenna. Do you have one to sell or donate or know someone who does?

If so, please contact John VA7XB at va7xb@rac.ca



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio



By K5KVN, on the scene

NEW YORK CITY — Some amateur radio operators are questioning claims by NBC News anchor Brian Williams that he is a newly licensed ham radio operator. Branching out from the “professional” broadcasting ranks into the “amateur” radio hobby is something Williams said he has wanted to do “since interviewing Hiram Percy Maxim in 2009.”

“I was thrilled to take and pass the Advanced license class exam earlier this week,” said Williams. “I ordered my first Heathkit straight from the factory on Tuesday.”

The newsman said he passed the exam in his hometown of Ridgewood, New Jersey.

“In addition, it was only a few minutes after receiving my vanity callsign K2FIB that I earned my DXCC certificate,” said Williams.

Williams announced that he had his license in an amateur radio online forum, when he posted in the “Wanted To Buy” section, looking for “one of those cheap handheld Chinese radios.”

“I don’t recall you being in my test session,” said Renee Spangeldorf in reply to the forum post. He is the Volunteer Examiner in charge of testing for the Ridgewood Radio Rangers.

Williams posted a reply saying he may have misremembered some of the facts. “I might be a no-code Tech. I’m not sure,” he said.

[Ham Hijinks](#) will continue to follow this story.

Hams Track Down Indoor Marijuana Growers Causing Radio Interference

US ham radio operators are helping police catch indoor marijuana growers who are causing RFI interference.

An article in the February 4 *Police One* magazine says in part:

“Reports have begun to flood into the National Association for Amateur Radio about interference with their ham radios from their neighbour’s marijuana grows. The most complaints come from California and Colorado, for obvious reasons. Many ham radio operators began to see a correlation with marijuana grows and this RFI.

Before knowing how to detect a marijuana grow with your radio, you have to understand some simple mechanics of how a grow operates. To grow marijuana indoors, you need supplemental lighting necessary for photosynthesis. These lights may be fluorescent, LED, and for larger operations, high pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH). In most cases these emit high levels of radio frequency interference.

One industrious ham operator went to his local grow shop and borrowed several lights to test for RFI. He found that one light and ballast set up would cause interference up to 700 meters. From our experience, we know that most indoor grows have more than one light and ballast, which would amplify the RFI.

One amateur radio operator located five marijuana grows near his house due to RFI alone! Many ham operators can locate a grow simply by taking a radio and portable antenna out into their neighborhood and using the radio to triangulate the exact location of the grow.”

<http://www.policeone.com/drug-interdiction-narcotics/articles/8224280-How-cops-are-catching-grow-ops-with-AM-radios/>

An elderly ham driver was going down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled his call...

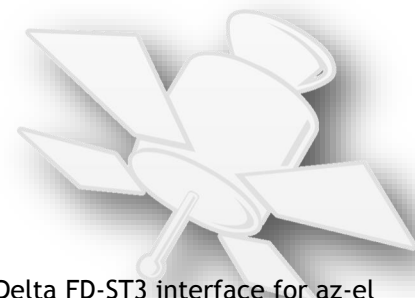
Answering, he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning... “Hey Elmer, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I-40 the wrong way, please be careful!!!”

Elmer replied, “Well I'll declare, it's not just one... there's hundreds of them!!!”

www.hamuniverse.com

March 2015

Satellite Specialty Group



the short-term objective should be to have a fully-equipped satellite station tested and ready to go to make contacts at Field Day 2015



The formation of a "Satellite Group" had its genesis from an idea that came out of our discussions last year about the future of the club and possible special interest activities that might entice members to become involved in other facets of amateur radio. Finally it happened with the inaugural meeting of the SARC Satellite Group on Sunday February 1st. Present to get things underway were: Ralph Wrotniak VA7UB, Nell Wrotniak VA7PE, Sheldon Ward VA7XNL, Hiu Yee VE7YXG, Deme Panaioti VE7CRT, Jay Melvin VE7KC and John Brodie VA7XB. John Schouten VE7TI (not present) was "volunteered in absentia" to lead the group. Ralph agreed to be responsible for recording meeting notes. The group will communicate by email which will be archived along with reference material on a special "Satellite Group" section of the SARC website, to be arranged between Hiu and our Webmaster, Howard Ticzon VA7HTZ. While a few of the members have a superficial knowledge of satellite techniques, only two members (Deme VE7CRT and John VE7TI) have actually made contacts, so we expect that they will be a good resource for the others.

In order that the group's mission has a specific focus, it was agreed that the short-term objective should be to have a fully-equipped satellite station tested and ready to go to make contacts at Field Day 2015. A secondary objective will be for each member of the group to become proficient in the use of software and hardware to facilitate satellite contacts using the members' own equipment. The hope was expressed that ultimately the goal could be shifted to moonbounce (EME) but that is yet a "bridge too far" without the acquisition of additional equipment and know-how.

Equipment proposed for the FD setup includes:

- IC-910H satellite transceiver equipped
- CT-17 interface for CAT control
- Toshiba "Satellite" laptop with SatPC32 software installed

- FoxDelta FD-ST3 interface for az-el control via CAT
- Yaesu G5500 Az-El controller and rotator
- 440 MHz cross yagi
- 2m cross yagi + non-metallic cross boom
- 10 ft tower section
- LMR 400 (or equivalent) coax
- Alinco 330MV power supply and Rigrunner 12 v distribution panel

The only items not yet on hand are a 2m circular polarization yagi, cross boom and coax all of which will have to be acquired soon. The preferred software, SatPC32 (available from Amsat), provides control of azimuth/elevation, frequency, mode and Doppler shift. A mast-mounted 440 MHz pre-amp would be useful but is not deemed essential at this stage.

Several useful Internet sites were identified for use by the group:

Satellite Locator:

<http://www.amsat.org.ar/sat.htm#>

Oscar Satellite Status:

<http://oscar.dcarr.org/>

DK3WN SatBlog:

http://www.dk3wn.info/p/?page_id=29535

Communications Satellites:

http://www.amsat.org/?page_id=177

At this meeting, the group using the IC-910H radio with SatPC32 software plus the Satellite Locator Internet site was eventually was able to hear the CW beacon at approx 437.525 from SPROUT, the new linear transponder Japanese satellite JQ1ZJQ. The next meeting is 1 pm Sunday, March 1st at which time the agenda will likely include a tutorial on use of SatPC32 software and progress report on acquisition of needed hardware. The group will practice listening for satellite beacons using radio and software and possibly attempt make a satellite contact.

'HT of the Future' at Orlando

On February 14, Bruce Perens K6BP demonstrated the handheld transceiver of the future at the Orlando Hamcation. Bruce demonstrated the current Whitebox Bravo board, and discuss the PCB 3D renderings and schematics of the Whitebox Charley (third generation) which is about to go to a prototype manufacturing run. He hopes to sell this version.

Here are the target features of this version, most of which are already tested and working:

- Developer version. Suitable for portable, mobile, or base use.
- 50-1000 MHz transceiver.
- Narrow bandwidth mode: 15 or 30 kHz channel.
- Wide bandwidth mode: Up to 1 MHz digital channel or spread-spectrum
- On board FLASH based gate-array.
- FM, SSB, DSB, AM, any digital mode you program including GMSK, C4FM, etc.
- 100 mW output.
- Works with Down East Microwave single-band amplifiers to boost to 30W.
- On-board ARM-based uClinux system.
- USB on-the-go works as USB host or target.
- USB WiFi base station tested and working.
- USB sound devices tested and working.
- 100 Megabit Ethernet.
- Can use your Smartphone as the user interface and application platform, no wires.
- Interface for CW paddle.
- Hosts Raspberry Pi daughter cards, including version 2.
- Runs on 12 Volts.
- Protected from ESD and automotive voltage spikes, meeting applicable standards.
- Battery efficient enough for handheld use.

- Mostly Open Hardware and Open Source, slight restriction to protect our non-Amateur markets.
- Supports either Open Source or proprietary applications.
- This version is marketed as test equipment (for regulatory purposes).
- Fits in a Hammond box. Punched end panels available.

- The Amateur would has never seen anything like this.

Future milestones:

- Multi-band amplifiers for both handheld and base/mobile use.
- Package for HT use, integrate with lithium battery and charger.
- Comply with U.S. cellular lockout without handicapping the rest of the platform.

Orlando HamCation® 2015
<http://www.hamcation.com/>

Whitebox Bravo
<https://www.facebook.com/whiteboxradio>
<https://github.com/testaco/whitebox>



Perens is an amateur radio operator, with call sign K6BP. He promotes open radio communications standards.

Bruce is also a computer programmer and advocate in the free software movement. He created The Open Source Definition and published the first formal announcement and manifesto of open source. He co-founded the Open Source Initiative (OSI) with Eric S. Raymond.

In 2005, Perens represented Open Source at the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, at the invitation of the United Nations Development Program. He has appeared before national legislatures and is often quoted in the press, advocating for open source and the reform of national and international technology policy.

March 2015

St. Lucia Amateurs Receive Canadian Grant

Saint Lucia is a sovereign island country in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. Part of the Lesser Antilles, it is located north/northeast of the island of Saint Vincent, northwest of Barbados and south of Martinique.

Capital: Castries

Currency: East Caribbean dollar

Official language: English

Continent: Americas, North America

Government: Constitutional monarchy, Parliamentary system

The Government of Canada will provide more than \$25,000 (CDN) to the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club to improve Amateur Radio coverage and communication in the small Caribbean island nation in the event of a disaster. The project will install two repeater systems including solar back-up power, train 90 radio operators, and increase coverage for all of Saint Lucia's 18 districts.

"Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and an escalation in the frequency and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes threaten homes and businesses across the Caribbean. These situations can have a significant negative impact on sustainable economic growth and result in loss of life," the Canadian Government said in announcing the grant.

According to the announcement, the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club repeater system will provide enhanced two-way communication during normal and disaster conditions, allowing for Amateur Radio coverage in all communities – and especially in known high-risk areas.

"The project will ensure that, in future hazard events, reliable and accurate information can be passed from communities to response teams, leading to more timely and effective assistance to those communities," the announcement said.

The nearly year-old Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club secured support for this project through the Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRM), part of Canada's \$600 million Caribbean Regional Program. The fund is designed to support Caribbean-based non-governmental organizations, community groups, and governmental agencies working at the community level to reduce risks from natural hazards and climate change.





The BC QSO Party was a success for SARC! Members of the Contest Group attended the station of Club President John Brodie VA7XB and managed to log an impressive number of stations.



The SARC repeater site has been plagued by corrosive air and heat in an unventilated space. Thanks to the Surrey Fire Service, the space is now enclosed and air conditioned.



Above: Al VA7ALZ and Joe VE7TOL next to the repeater enclosure

Right: The AC unit along with the differential pressure-controlled fresh air fan in the repeater room

Far Right: The chiller on the roof above the 36th floor next to the repeater site

The next contest opportunities are:

March 2015

- ARRL International DX Contest, SSB - Mar. 6 at 16:00 PST to Mar. 8 at 16:59 PDT (48 hours from 0000-2359 UTC) see page 11
- BARTG HF RTTY Contest - Mar. 21 at 19:00 PDT to Mar. 22 at 19:00 PDT (48 hours 0200-0200 UTC)
- CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB - Mar. 27 at 17:00 PDT to Mar. 29 at 16:59 PDT (48 hours 0000-2359 UTC)

April 2015

- Florida QSO Party - Apr. 25 from 09:00 PDT to 18:59 PDT (10 hours 1600-0159 UTC) and Apr. 26 from 05:00 PDT to 16:59 PDT (1200-2159 UTC)

May 2015

- CQ-M International DX Contest - May 9 at 05:00 PDT to May 10 at 16:59 PDT (24 hours 1200-1159 UTC)
- CQ WW WPX Contest, CW - May 29 at 17:00 PDT to May 31 at 16:59 PDT (48 hours 0000-2359 UTC)



March 2015



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Arthur Siemens
VE7SIE**

Arthur was born in Vancouver and lived there for the first 23 years of his life. He was one of three boys as well as having 2 sisters. Sadly, one brother has since passed away. The remaining siblings all live locally, with his eldest sister living with Arthur at present. Arthur attended the Vancouver Technical School where he played soccer and softball, and later, after leaving school, he became a coach for these sports. In addition he enjoyed roller skating which he did at the Richmond, North Vancouver and Surrey rinks. Following high school, Arthur attended a trade school called ORW where he took courses in janitorial services. Afterwards he worked for a janitorial company and then for White Spot Headquarters in Vancouver as a janitor. He went on to drive delivery trucks. Arthur still drives emergency vehicles as a volunteer for the Salvation Army and it was there that he first met a lady by the name of Nicole Stopa who has been a long time friend. He is retired now from his working life due to medical reasons.

Between the years of 1965 and 2005 Arthur travelled with different family members to Niagara Falls, drove to Ontario, Winnipeg "went to Alaska with 4 women" on the Princess cruise line and had a memorable trip to China in 2005. He has travelled throughout USA and BC. Arthur has a daughter and one grandson and even a great- great- great Uncle.

In 1983 Arthur relocated to Surrey. In the year 2000 he became interested in ham radio and began taking the Advanced License course until he realized he needed to take the Basic License first which he obtained with honours in 2011. His first radio was an ICOM IC V85 hand held and he now has a Kenwood TM V71 radio in his car. He joined SARC in 2011 while at the same time belonging to the Delta Amateur Radio Society. Arthur's favourite ham radio activity is talking to other hams in other countries and the camaraderie of other hams in general. Arthur, along with Nicole, have become a familiar "item" to SARC members and together have served on Field Day as security and organizing the food for that event and also preparing food for the Foxhunt events.

Arthur states that he is content to be where he is at present in his life and has no burning ambitions planned in the future although, now that he and Nicole are engaged, there will possibly be some plans for marriage at some point in time. Thanks for all your service to SARC Arthur. Don't forget to let us all know when you are going to "tie the knot."

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR



March Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	4	5	6 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	7 Contest: ARRL International DX SSB
8 Contest: ARRL International DX SSB	9	10 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	11 SARC General Meeting	12	13 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	14
15	16	17 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	18	19	20 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	21 Contest: BARTG HF RTTY
22 Contest: BARTG HF RTTY	23	24 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	25 SARC Exec Meeting	26	27 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	28 Contest: CQ WW WPX SSB
29 Contest: CQ WW WPX SSB	30	31	1	2	3	4

For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net

For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar

March 2015

**QRT**

Bill Gipps VE7XS

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARYRob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)**TREASURER**

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORSJohn Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor & Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

'men,tôr,'men,tær/

verb

Gerund or present
participle: **mentoring**

1. advise or train (someone,
especially a younger colleague)

There is a lot of talk today, particularly in business, about the value of mentoring. More experienced, and typically older individuals in a field providing support and direction to help less experienced, and usually, younger individuals. This can be valuable to both parties, and also benefits the organizations that they belong to.

Let's take this into our Amateur Radio world. I've heard comments for longer than I have been licensed, that the exam requirements are being 'dumbed down'. Many courses have been shortened, some now being under two days - a single weekend and you can be licensed as an Amateur Radio Operator. What we are finding is that you might be licensed, but you may also know absolutely nothing about how to be a Ham.

I've been fortunate to have a station that has a very low noise floor, decent antennas, and we 'get out' well. Myself and a few others with equipment there, have had a great time helping others improve their operating skills, polish their "pileup busting" techniques, and become a lot more comfortable with handling their own pileups in a contest. These individuals who we have helped have become better operators, and we are better people because we helped them in their quest.

It is a pleasure to see a new Ham grow their skills - week over week - and start to be much more comfortable working the world on HF. For some, it started out simple. They don't have HF equipment in their home, or are recently licensed and want to grow their skill sets. A few visits to the shack, a lot of listening to other operators, and then the encouragement and support as they take the mike and start to work DX - catch the nuances of the other operator, responding automatically to the DX station coming back with "the Echo 7 station, again, again" and they respond quickly and clearly giving their call and putting the contact in the log. Awesome!

It takes practice, and patience and the willingness for both parties to keep trying to improve. There will be setbacks - laugh them off, talk over what happened (or didn't) and practice how the QSO should have gone. Provide support, a positive environment and the occasional high five as your guest operator bags a good one, or works a great run during a contest.

Finally, remember that we all benefit from mentoring. Our hobby is broad and there are many aspects that we may not have explored yet. If you plan on trying something new, look around for someone who is doing it already, and see if they can help get you started or are willing to help you improve your skills.

We can all learn something from each other. Keep an open mind, listen and learn - teach when you can, and remember, it is a good day when you learn something new.

The March Meeting



The March 11th General Meeting will feature a presentation by Steve Wright, originally from the City of York, England. Steve came to Canada in 1947 with his parents and has been here ever since. He was licensed in Winnipeg May 1957 and held the calls of VE4SW and then VE4XJ a year later for some 22 years, apart from 3 years in Regina as VE5XJ. In 1980 He moved to B.C. and was virtually inactive as VE7EXJ until he received the call VE7CT in 1985, which he holds to this day. Steve has a station tour at URL: bcdxc.org/ve7ct_tour.htm

Steve's working career centered around the communications industry in the sales field in one way or another until retiring in 2003.

All through his ham radio career Steve has been interested in HF DX-ing and currently has worked all 340 entities, meaning he is on the honour roll for DXCC. As well he has CQ WAZ (worked all zones) and DXCC QRP i.e. 100 entities or more on low power (2 watts as it turned out).

Steve went on his first DXpedition to Conway Reef in 1990, got bitten by the expedition bug and continued over the years to Kingman Reef, Kure Atoll, Lakshadweep Islands, Saba Island (in 2010 for an all time new entity), Desecheo Island, Malpelo Island and Amsterdam Island. All except Malpelo were in the top ten most wanted at the time. Malpelo was #12 but much higher than that for the western USA and Canada, as well as Asia, due to the Island's mountain blocking signals in those directions. Steve hopes to participate in at least one or two more expeditions before admitting that he is too old to be doing such crazy things!

His topic for the meeting will be the last expedition he was on to Amsterdam Island in Jan/Feb 2014.

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdby
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Rob VE7CZV
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV @ separs.net		

Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.



"The Northwest's Largest Ham Convention"

June 5, 6, & 7, 2015

"The Second Century Begins Here!"



Host of the
ARRL NW Division Conference

www.seapac.org
Seaside Convention Center
415 First Avenue, Seaside, Oregon

SEA-PAC Banquet Speaker

Ben Moses, W6FY



Ben Moses, W6FY, is a documentarian, television producer, director, writer, and filmmaker. He is the author of "Good Morning, Vietnam" and the documentary "A Whisper to a Roar."

Raised in southern Illinois, amateur radio introduced him to the world beyond his hometown. Ben earned his first "ham radio" license at the age of ten and his

First Class Television Engineering License at the age of 16. In 1977, Ben Moses moved to Los Angeles to work on Barry Manilow's first television special as Associate Director. Under director Marty Pasetta and the production team that produced the Academy Awards, Emmy Awards and Grammy Awards specials, Moses worked as stage manager and Associate Director on those and many other live musical-variety specials for CBS, ABC and NBC.

Ben says, "Getting on the air has always felt like I'm joining an already-in-progress social gathering where I'm likely to run into someone I know and sure to meet new people and make new friends."

Banquet Awards

- Macy's Gift Cards
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Reader w/7" screen
- Sony Blue-Ray Disc/DVD Player
- Yaesu VX-6R Tri-Band HT

YL Luncheon Speaker

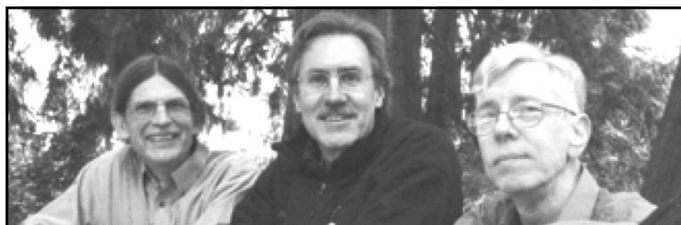
Cheryl Muhr, NØWBV

*"If I ever get bored with this hobby,
it will be my own fault!"*

SEA-PAC Pin Design Contest

Are you creative? Enter our **SEA-PAC Pin Design Contest** and you could win two free tickets to the Saturday Night Banquet, plus fame and admiration from all of your fellow HAMS. Submit no later than March 31, 2015. Submissions must have actual size and large color print of the design. One entry per person. Send designs to **SEA-PAC, Post Office Box 25466, Portland, OR 97298-0466**. Examples of previous years pins and the complete rules for the contest are on the **SEA-PAC** web site at ...

http://www.seapac.org/seapac_pins.php



SEA-PAC Banquet Entertainment

Woodlander is an acoustic Americana trio whose music is an upbeat blend of folk, bluegrass, Cajun, swing and reggae, among other roots of Americana music. Inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in 2011 as part of the Country Rock band Wheatfield, they have been performing together for nearly 40 years.

Friday Workshops

This year, we will have two workshops to choose from
(Registration required – optional luncheon)
See the www.seapac.org website for more details.

Antenna Modeling and Improving your Success

Roy Lewallen, W7EL, Ed Hare, W1RFI, Darryl Holman, WW7D, and Etienne Scott, K7ATN, will discuss antenna modeling, integration of various tools to improve your antenna performance, and operating with mobile antennas.

Emergency Communication Coordinator Academy

A cadre led by Vince Van Der Hyde, K7VV, will present key principles for leaders in emergency communications organizations. We will discuss roles and responsibilities for leaders, coordination with other groups, recruiting, retention, succession planning, building a training program, planning exercises, and the future of EmComm in amateur radio. We will take brown bag lunch orders so we can continue thru lunch.

Seminars

We plan to host over 40 seminars on Saturday and Sunday. Topics confirmed include APRS, Raspberry Pi development, Code keys, Yaesu Fusion C4FM repeater, PSK31, a behind-the-scenes tour of the ARRL lab, Contact logging, getting started with DIY, 10m operation, and more coming.

SEA-PAC SCHEDULE

Friday, June 5

Workshop: Antennas (Shilo Inn) 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Workshop: Emcomm Leadership (Conv Ctr) 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
SEA-PAC Registration Open 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Exhibitor/Flea Market Set-Up 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Friday Workshops Lunch (Shilo Inn) 12:00 Noon

Saturday, June 6

Exhibitor/Flea Market Set-Up 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Registration Open 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
VE Exams (Pre-registered) 9:00 AM
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - East Parish Hall
Exhibits & Flea Market Open 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Snack Bar 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Seminars (Convention Center) 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Seaside Convention Center
Hourly Awards 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
YL Luncheon (Shilo Inn) 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
 With Cheryl Muhr, NØWBV
 "If I ever get bored with this hobby, it will be my own fault!"
DX Luncheon (Shilo Inn) 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
ARRL Forum (Seaside A&B) 1:00 - 2:00 PM
SEA-PAC Awards 2:30 PM
Pre-Banquet Happy Hour 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM
SEA-PAC Banquet (Convention Center) 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM
 Keynote speaker is Ben Moses, W6FY
 "The Places Amateur Radio Has Taken Me"

Sunday, June 7

Registration 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon
Exhibits & Flea Market Open 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Hourly Awards 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Seminars (Convention Center) 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Snack Bar 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Major Awards (Convention Center) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Convention Closes 2:00 PM

A complete schedule will be available in the Convention Booklet on Friday, June 5, 2015.

Follow "SEA-PAC" on Facebook!



SEA-PAC AWARDS

Sunday, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Major Awards

- Alinco DJ-500 Dual Band HT
- Alinco DJ-G29T Dual Band HT
- Buddipole Deluxe portable antenna package
- GoPro Hero HD Sport Camera 1080p
- Icom IC-V80 Sport HT
- Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver
- Kenwood TH-K20A 144 MHz HT
- Kenwood TH-D72A Dual Band HT
- Kenwood TH-F6A Tri-Band HT
- Kindle Fire HDX 7" Tablet
- Samsung 32" LED TV
- Yaesu FT-1DR Dual Band HT

Early Bird Awards

Need not be present

Registrations received by April 15, 2015

- Alinco DJ-A10T 144 MHz HT
- Icom IC-T70 HD Dual Band HT
- Powerwerx KG-UV-3D Dual Band HT
- Yaesu FT-8800R Dual Band Mobile

SEA-PAC CONTACTS

General Information: Wayne Schuler, AI9Q
 360.892.5580
info@seapac.org

Exhibitors: Warren Winner, W7JDT
 503.644.0752
exhibitors@seapac.org

Flea Market: Tom Hill, WA3RMX
 503.780.6940
fleamarket@seapac.org

Registration: Melissa Nelson, KF7JIK
 503.848.9838
registration@seapac.org

Seminars & Workshops: Delvin Bunton, N7QMT
 360.256.9122
seminars@seapac.org

Awards: Warren Winner, W7JDT
 503.644.0752
prizes@seapac.org

SEA-PAC Message Phone: 503.882.7388

SEA-PAC Web Site: <http://www.seapac.org>

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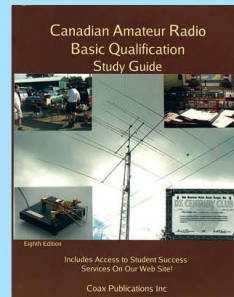
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